PRESENT :—*cont.*

Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Sesha Reddi, Mr. B. P.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Simhachalam, Mr. Gade.
Singam Ayyangar, Mr. K.
Smith, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. E. Conran.
Sreshta, Mr. M. S.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Srinivasan, Rao Bahadur R.
Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Stanes, Mr. F. J.
Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Subrahmanya Chetti, Rao Sahib P.
Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Thangal, Mr. P. M.
Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
Thorne, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. J. A.
Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.
Viswanatha Rao, Rao Bahadur V. N.
Wright, Mr. W. O.
Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
Zamindar of Bodinayakkanur, The.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram, The.

I.—SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following new Members were sworn in:—

(1) Mr. W. W. Ladden.

(2) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V. N. Viswanatha Rao Avargal.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Control of Vehicles

Bus accident at Nattanur in North Malabar on the 22nd May 1933.

* 1 *Q.*—B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether an accident happened on 22nd May 1933 to a bus carrying passengers near Nattanur in North Malabar;

(*b*) whether the said bus was over-loaded; and if so, by how many;

(*c*) what the causes are which led to the accident;

(*d*) how many passengers were injured and in how many cases were the injuries of a serious nature;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that when the injured persons were taken to the Government hospital, Tellicherry, no medical officer was available either at the hospital or at their residences and that the injured could not be attended to on that account;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that some of the injured who got admitted in the hospital had to get themselves discharged on the next day and, if so, for what reasons; and

(*g*) whether the Government have made any enquiries into the matter, and, if so, with what result?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*g*) The Government have no information but they have called for it.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I ask, Sir, whether the information has since been received? "

The hon. Sir Mahomed Usman:—" No, Sir."

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Police

Transfer of the Malabar Special Police at Malappuram to the charge of Military officers.

*2 *Q.*—Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are contemplating to put the Malabar Special Police stationed at Malappuram in charge of Military officers; and

(*b*) if so, the circumstances under which such change has been thought necessary?

A.—(*a*) The Government have under consideration a proposal to officer the Malabar Special Police by officers seconded from the Indian Army.

(*b*) The change is proposed on general grounds of efficiency, particularly in view of the fact that the present arrangement results in a shortage of police officers in the ordinary line and adversely affects the training of young police officers posted to special duty with the Malabar Special Police.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know from the hon. Member whether there were cases against the present officers of inefficiency on account of which the Government seem to have resorted to this new method of bringing in Army men?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"That is not the case, Sir. I may say that this was a subject which formed one of the Part II schemes for 1933–34. It was passed by the Finance Committee. As a result of it an item was included in the budget memorandum. The note for the Finance Committee has been placed in the Legislative Council Library, from which my hon. Friend will get the fullest information."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether the Government is aware that there has been a strong feeling against this force throughout Malabar and particularly among the Mappillas of Malabar, who have expressed themselves against it in several conferences? Will it not aggravate the situation if military men are appointed instead of policemen to command these forces?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"I do not think it will aggravate the situation in any way."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know if it is not a fact that there is difference between having an army and having police in a place and whether, in view of the fact that the Government is bringing Military officers in place of policemen, it may not be tantamount to having military rule in Malabar instead of having only police stationed?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"No, Sir. Military officers will do exactly the same duties as the Police officers are doing to-day."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"May I know, Sir, how many officers are intended to be appointed there and how it will affect the strength of Police officers in the ordinary line?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"All this has been stated in the note that has been placed in the Legislative Council Library."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know, Sir, whether the present officers have had no military training?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"They might have had. That does not alter the situation."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"May I know if these officers are going to be recruited from officers in active military service or from retired Military officers?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"The whole question is now the subject of correspondence between this Government and the Government of India."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know, Sir, whether they are going to be Indian officers or non-Indian officers—I mean those that are going to be in charge of this special Police?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"I have nothing to add, Sir, to what I have already stated."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"May I say, Sir, if the hon. the Home Member assumes that attitude of not taking this Council into confidence, it will not be very helpful? Are we to be satisfied with these unenlightening answers, Sir?"

The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"May I say again, Sir, that the whole note on the subject has been placed before the Finance Committee which passed the scheme. That note is now in the Legislative Council Library. My hon. Friend has only to read it to obtain full information. This shows that the Government have taken the Council into their confidence. This note, as I said, was first placed before the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee passed the scheme. As a result of it, some items were included in the budget which this Council passed. So the Council has put its seal of approval on the policy of Government relating to this matter."

Forests

Representation of the Catholic Association of South Kanara regarding forest concessions.

*3 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Catholic Association of South Kanara have represented to the Government the necessity for suspending the order cancelling the concessions granted to villagers in reserve forests including Hosabettu and Todar; and

(b) whether the Government have considered this representation and taken any action in regard to it?

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A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The representation was carefully considered but no action was thought necessary.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know, Sir, the grounds on which the Government have come to the decision that no action is necessary in the matter? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" This decision was arrived at after careful consideration, Sir."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" It is just the answer given here, Sir. May I know the grounds on which the Government have based their order? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The Government think that the people are abusing the privileges granted to them."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I know whether it is not a fact that, because the hardships of the people were real, the concessions were granted some time back? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" At the time the privileges were granted, it was specifically stated that if they were abused, they would be withdrawn."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" Is much harm done by the abuse, Sir? Has it been found that the abuse has resulted in much harm? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The abuse will lead to the total destruction of the forests. That is the only harm."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know whether the Government have made any independent enquiry regarding the reports received about the abuse of concessions? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The Collector was asked to give his opinion in addition to the reports of the departmental officers."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" Is the hon. Member aware that there is considerable discontent throughout the district in regard to this matter and that it is felt that the harm done is very slight and not proportionate to the very drastic step that has been taken by the Government? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The Government know that the harm done is very great. As for the discontent in the district, my friend knows more about it than the Government."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know whether the Government will be prepared to make further investigation in this matter? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I am afraid not at present."

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Land Revenue Administration

Publication of the scheme report in regard to resettlement in South Kanara.

* 4 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government propose to publish this year the scheme report in regard to resettlement in South Kanara; and

(*b*) whether the report proposes the enhancement of the rates of assessment; and, if so, by what per cent in the case of wet, dry and garden lands respectively?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government have not yet received a copy of the scheme report for the resettlement of the South Kanara district. They understand that it is likely to be published shortly.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether representations have been made to the Government asking for the postponement of resettlement operations till the present slump in the prices of agricultural produce goes?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"I think we have received some representations."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"Is the hon. Member aware that the prices are going down still further and the distress will be increased considerably?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"I am not aware that the prices are falling. I believe they are steady."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"Will the hon. Member be pleased to call for figures showing the prices at the present moment and the prices prevailing some months ago and see whether the resettlement can be postponed?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"We receive regularly every week reports of prices."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased to collect the figures and place them before the Council?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"The prices are published in the gazette."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"May I know whether the Government are aware that Japan rice is imported into India?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"I believe some rice comes from Japan, Sir."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"May I know what steps the Government propose to take in the matter?"

The hon. the President:—"I do not think the hon. Member is quite in order in putting that supplementary question."

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Progress of resettlement in South Kanara.

* 5 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) in what stage the Revenue resettlement of South Kanara is and when the report is expected to be published; and

(*b*) whether the Government have come to any decision as to the rate of increase or decrease in the assessment?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 4.

Public Service

Posting of Collectors to North Arcot since 1st June 1933.

* 6 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state the names of persons posted for duty as Collectors in the North Arcot district from 1st June 1933 to date and for what periods?

A.—(i) Mr. A. G. Leach, c.i.e., I.C.S.—From 24th April 1933 afternoon to 23rd June 1933.

(ii) Mr. T. L. R. Chandran, I.C.S.—Since the 24th June 1933.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether the Government are aware that this year there has been change in the Collectors of North Arcot four times? "

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" I must ask for notice."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know, Sir, whether there is any policy underlying the posting of Collectors? "

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" Collectors posted to a district generally stay there for a considerable period unless there is reason for transferring them, for instance, when they proceed on leave."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" Do Government realize, Sir, that by the constant transfers of Collectors and District Magistrates the efficiency of the administration of the district suffers? "

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" I am not aware that the efficiency of the administration suffers materially in consequence of that. I am not aware that there are such frequent transfers."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" Does this list include those posted but who have not joined duty? Is there another list of those posted but who did not join? "

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" I must ask for notice."

Wireless installations

Scheme, if any, for a provincial broadcasting service.

* 7 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have under consideration any scheme for a provincial broadcasting service; and

(b) whether they have decided to take any action in regard to this matter?

A.—(a) The Government have under consideration certain proposals for preparing a scheme for a Provincial Broadcasting service.

(b) No decision has yet been taken.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know, Sir, what proposals are under the consideration of the Government and by whom they have been made?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—" There are certain proposals already before the Government but before considering them it may be necessary to take expert advice. The whole question as to how best to settle the scheme is under consideration of Government. We are in communication with the Chief Engineer for Electricity on this matter, and we are going to see whether and on what terms we can get the services of an expert for six months or so, to give us expert advice as to the best line for proceeding with the scheme."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" Have the Government considered the desirability of getting advice from Bombay or Ceylon on this scheme of broadcasting? I understand that in Ceylon broadcasting is carried on by the Government very successfully."

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—" We have not considered that. We shall take note of the hon. Member's suggestion."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" Will the hon. Member also consider the desirability of appointing a small committee to go into the whole question in view of the importance of the matter?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—" The Government will also keep that suggestion in view. At present it is not under consideration."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Are the Government aware that an association in England has been circulating literature on the subject saying that it is necessary to entertain the villagers in the rural parts of India and that they think of starting a provincial broadcasting station, if necessary?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—" I believe we have received some brochure or pamphlet on the subject."

Local Self-Government

Orders, if any, of Government on the recommendations made by the Special Officer appointed to examine the financial position of local bodies.

* 8 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have passed any orders in regard to the recommendations made by the Special Officer appointed to examine the financial position of local bodies?

A.—No. The recommendations of the Special Officer are under the consideration of the Government.

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Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether, apart from the recommendations of the special officer, the Government have under consideration any proposals for stabilizing the finances of the local bodies?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"The Government have recently appointed a special staff to consider various alternative proposals but they have not advanced sufficiently far for me to place them before the House."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know how long these recommendations have been under consideration?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"Apart from these recommendations, the Government have on their own initiative been considering other alternative proposals. As far as the recommendations are concerned, I think the only important proposal was the restoration of tolls on bullock carts. Other proposals of the special officer are mere palliatives and are not calculated to be of any permanent benefit to the local bodies."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know when orders are likely to issue?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"As I have said, I do not think any orders are likely to be issued on the report of the special officer, but Government are considering other alternatives. I am afraid I cannot give any definite answer as to when final orders will issue."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"Is it not a fact that Government have issued a Government Order calling for the opinions of the district boards on the recommendations of the special officer?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"May I know what reports they have got from the districts on the subject?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"I must ask for notice."

Mr. Yakub Hasan:—"Will the hon. the Minister give us an idea of the alternative proposals before the Government?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"I have not got any definite proposals, Sir. Various alternatives are being examined as to whether it will be possible to introduce any measures to stabilize the financial position of local bodies."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"Are we to understand that in view of the fact that the Government is not going to issue any orders the labours of the special officer and the cost incurred by Government would be a waste?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"I do not think so."

Appointment of Commissioners to Municipalities.

*9 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Commissioners have been appointed to some municipalities as has been enacted recently;

(*b*) if so, to which of the municipalities such appointments have been made; and

(*c*) who has been appointed to each municipality and what previous appointment has he held?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) A statement[a] is appended.

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"May I know whether the Government propose to appoint commissioners for any municipalities not included in this list?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"I take it the hon. Member means the list given as appendix to the answer. Proposals to appoint commissioners for Negapatam and Dindigul municipalities are under consideration."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"May I know whether in respect of Negapatam, the Government have received any resolution passed by the municipal council of Negapatam, asking for the appointment of a commissioner?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"May I know whether the hon. Minister means that the Negapatam municipality passed a resolution asking the Government to appoint a commissioner?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"As far as I can remember, that is what I think."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that all that the Negapatam municipality wanted was that they should be helped with the services of a special officer to enable them to collect the long-standing arrears in their revenues?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"I am not aware of that. But I expect the commissioner will help them in collecting their revenues."

Reconstitution of taluk boards on the lines which existed prior to their bifurcation.

*10 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any proposals for reamalgamating taluks for taluk boards as they originally were before they were bifurcated;

(*b*) if so, what those specific proposals are and when they may come into being; and

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 47 infra.

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(c) whether it is a fact that after the bifurcation, work and expenditure have considerably increased but the efficiency and progress have considerably declined?

A.—(a) & (b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) The bifurcation has to some extent accentuated the financial difficulties under which some of the old taluk boards were labouring and instances have come to the notice of the Government, in which the new taluk boards were unable to meet their liabilities for want of funds. The Government have however no reason to suppose that any considerable decline in efficiency has taken place as a result of the bifurcation.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether any definite proposals are before the Government in regard to these questions?" 11-15 a.m.

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" As stated in the answer, various proposals are under consideration. Under the policy of the new Act the taluk boards have been bifurcated after three years' trouble and expense. It is not possible without giving it a trial to immediately think of far-reaching changes."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—" In answer to (a) and (b), it is stated no such proposal is under consideration. May I know from the hon. the Chief Minister whether in the Kistna district he has stopped the elections in respect of certain taluk boards and if so, on what grounds?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" Most of the taluk boards which have been bifurcated are not financially self-supporting. For that reason no further bifurcation was considered desirable."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—" Is the Government aware that by the multiplication of these taluk boards the difficulties of the financial situation are becoming aggravated?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" Yes."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVSA AYYANGAR:—" How many of these taluk boards are self-supporting?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" Majority."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—" Are the majority self-supporting or not self-supporting?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I believe, Sir, the majority are self-supporting."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—" Sir, the printed answer says that there is no such proposal under consideration, viz., amalgamation of certain taluk boards. But the Minister says that Government have considered the question and have stopped election in respect of certain taluk boards. Which answer is correct?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The other proposals with regard to the whole question are under consideration."